

Call for Papers

Architekturwissenschaft – From Suffix to Agenda

5th FORUM ARCHITEKTURWISSENSCHAFT

Date and location: 14th to 16th November 2018, BTU Cottbus-Senftenberg

Deadline: June 1, 2018

Since its founding in 2010, the Netzwerk Architekturwissenschaft e.V. has been gathering very different people working on architecture, its objects and methods through the suffix -"wissenschaft". (The German noun "Wissenschaft" hardly translates into "science" and we intentionally do not translate it, as it neither refers exclusively to the humanities nor the sciences). To establish a concept is one thing, but what exactly is meant by "Architekturwissenschaft"? Is it at the same time naming, description and task? First of all, this is the promise of a systematic, methodically-reflected approach to the making-of and thinking-about architecture. However, against the background of the peculiarity of the subject, namely the irreducible variety of perspectives that it comprises, it may seem neither possible nor reasonable to assume a uniform methodology of Architekturwissenschaft. Nevertheless, one has to ask: what actually constitutes the knowledge and scientific concepts of Architekturwissenschaft?

The basic principles of 'an' Architekturwissenschaft must be characterized if it is intended to be approached by a systematic and descriptive undertaking, oriented to increase the knowledge of the object. The 5th Forum Architekturwissenschaft takes on this challenge by inviting the following questions to be discussed:

- Which should be the distinctive principles or characteristics of Architekturwissenschaft?
- Can and should Architekturwissenschaft unite the existing diverse thematic and methodical approaches to architecture?
- Which new perspectives and possibilities are to be opened through Architekturwissenschaft for researching 'on', and 'from' architecture?
- What contribution can Architekturwissenschaft add to achieve a (better) systematic, methodologically transparent and critical approach to architecture?

Against the background of these questions, we are looking for contributions to the following four sections:

(1) Pre-History(-ies) of Architekturwissenschaft

Making-of as well as thinking-about architecture as a scientific project is undoubtedly not just a present-day phenomenon: Vitruvius' 'founding text' already deals with the relationship of the architect to science. It hardly needs to be stressed that the concept of science itself can only be adequately understood through its contextualization and historization. This raises the question: how and in which historical discourses have architecture and architectural reflection been conceived in a specific way as a *Wissenschaft*, which we leave deliberately untranslated as stated above? Which 'external' scientific rules of the game were they subject to? Which relationships arise with current projects?

(2) Theory of Knowledge and Methodology of Architekturwissenschaft

This section is focused on a critical exploration of the current subject areas and methodology of *Architekturwissenschaft*. What working methods, practices, values and conventions are used when conceiving architecture 'as' science? Does the claim to understand architecture as a science aim equally at practical architecture-making and theoretical reflection, 'in' and 'about' architecture? Where does the concept of architecture as a knowledge-based activity find its limits? Of particular interest here is the formulation of goals and the visualization of projects that can propose innovative ways of thinking about and making of architecture.

(3) Actors in Architekturwissenschaft

Who 'does' *Architekturwissenschaft*? Despite or perhaps because of its young age, the network allows itself tentatively to answer the question of what *Architekturwissenschaft* is, in a self-referential manner: Architectural science is what the members of the Network *Architekturwissenschaft* do in their full range. But what is the difference between *Architekturwissenschaft* and other scientific initiatives on and in architecture? Are there any exemplary projects and/or results in *Architekturwissenschaft*, does it have structural blind spots? Both network members and network observers are invited to take a position here.

(4) Architekturwissenschaft as a Strategic Project

The question following the third session is: What sets *Architekturwissenschaft*'s perspective apart from other perspectives, such as architectural theory or cultural studies? How should study programs or plans be designed for scholars in a new *Architekturwissenschaft*? (How) can architecture students qualify better by a new *Architekturwissenschaft*, than alone by architectural history, theory, sociology, cultural studies etc.? This section invites contributions which outline development scenarios of *Architekturwissenschaft*, design curricula in *Architekturwissenschaft* or issue manifestos.



Call for Papers

We are looking forward to receive abstracts in German or English (max. 2.500 characters incl. spacing) for lectures (max. 20 min), which comment on the topics outlined above. Please also send a short CV (max. 500 characters) not later than June 1st 2018 to: forum2018@architekturwissenschaft.net
The notification of the acceptance of the contributions will take place in July 2018.

Based on the conference papers a programmatic publication is scheduled as a print and open-access-publication, as a volume of the series of "Forum Architekturwissenschaft".

The Forum Architekturwissenschaft is an initiative of the Netzwerk Architekturwissenschaft e.V. (www.architekturwissenschaft.net). As a platform for scientific exchange and networking, it regularly addresses relevant topics in architectural science. In doing so, it wants to promote the reflection on architecture beyond disciplinary boundaries and bring different research practices and methods into dialogue.

Organizer

Netzwerk Architekturwissenschaft e.V. in cooperation with the BTU Cottbus-Senftenberg and the Interdisciplinary Laboratory *Bild Wissen Gestaltung* – Cluster of Excellence of the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin.

Concept & Organization

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